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Message Text

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43
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15

ACDA-10 /079 W
---------- 034129
R 091401Z JAN 76
FM AMCONSUL BELFAST
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1147
INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USNAVCOMMSTA LONDONDERRY

UNCLAS BELFAST 011

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, U.K. (N.I.)
SUBJECT: UDA THREATENS ALL-OUT WAR

REF: BELFAST TELS 10, 9, 8, 5

1. ULSTER DEFENCE ASSOCIATION (UDA) JAN 8 RELEASED STATEMENT ACCUSING "NATIONALIST COMMUNITY" OF DESIRING ESCALATION TO OUTRIGHT CIVIL WAR AND THAT "...THEIR CONTINUED SUCCOR AND SUPPORT OF THE I.R.A. IS CLEAR PROOF OF THIS." STATEMENT CONTINUED: "THE ONLY REASON THAT TOTAL WAR HAS NOT ENVELOPED THE PROVINCE IS THAT THE PROTESTANT COMMUNITY HAVE NOT THROWN THEIR FULL SUPPORT BEHIND THE LOYALIST PARAMILITARIES. HOWEVER, THIS SUPPORT IS NOW INCREASING IN MOMENTUM AND IT IS NOW ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE THE PROTESTANT COMMUNITY GIVES THE LOYALIST PARAMILITARIES THE GO-AHEAD TO ENGAGE IN FULL-SCALE CONFLICT. IN THAT EVENT THE NUMBER OF DEAD ON BOTH SIDES WILL LEAVE THE REMAINDER WITH A HOLLOW VICTORY." SOME OF THIS LANGUAGE SOUNDS LIKE THE SENTIMENTS OF UDA FOUNDER SAMMY SMYTH. IN ULSTER BBC RADIO INTERVIEW JAN 8, SMYTH EXPANDED ON UDA STATEMENT WITH ACCUSATION THAT IN WAR BEING WAGED BY OFFICIAL AND PROVISIONAL IRA, PROTESTANTS COULD NOT DEPEND ON SECURITY FORCES TO PROTECT THEM AND THAT COMMUNITY
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WOULD HAVE TO PROTECT ITSELF. HE ADDED IT WAS NOW UDA THAT

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WAS RESISTING POPULAR PRESSURES FOR OFFENSIVE.

2. LOCAL PRESS AND RADIO JAN 9 REPORTED PROVISIONAL IRA STATEMENT OF JAN 8 DENYING THAT "THE IRISH REPUBLICAN ARMY HAVE EVER INITIATED SECTARIAN KILLINGS .... IF LOYALIST ELEMENTS RESPONSIBLE FOR OVER 300 SECTARIAN ASSASSINATIONS IN THE PAST FOUR YEARS STOP SUCH KILLING NOW, THEN THE QUESTION OF RETALIATION, FROM WHATEVER SOURCE, WILL NOT ARISE."

3. UNITED ULSTER UNIONIST COALITION (UUUC) LEADERS CONTINUED DEMONSTRATE THEIR OPPOSITION TO COALITION GOVERNMENT AS STEP TOWARD POLITICAL SOLUTION OF ULSTER CONFLICT.
HARRY WEST AND IAN PAISLEY DENOUNCED A COALITION AS A "SELL-OUT ADMINISTRATION" AND CALLED ON LOYALISTS NOT TO ALLOW THEMSELVES TO BE STAMPEDED INTO A SITUATION AND DECISION WHICH OFFERED THE PROVINCE "ABSOLUTELY NOTHING." IN MOST BELLIGERENT STATEMENT, ERNEST BAIRD LEADER OF UNITED ULSTER UNIONIST MOVEMENT, WARNED THAT IF THE MAJORITY REPORT FOR THE CONVENTION WAS NOT ACCEPTED THEN NORTHERN IRELAND MUST START TO PREPARE FOR "A FINAL CONFLICT." HE CONTINUES SEE A BRITISH PLOT TO FORCE PROVINCE INTO A UNITED IRELAND.

4. OPINIONS ON USE SPECIAL AIR SERVICE 22 REGIMENT IN NORTHERN IRELAND CONTINUED DIFFER MAINLY ALONG SECTARIAN LINES. MILDEST CRITICISM FROM CATHOLICS WAS THAT SAS TACTICS WOULD REESTABLISH WANING POPULARITY OF PROVISIONAL IRA IN SOUTH ARMAGH. HARSHEST CRITICISM WAS THAT SAS WOULD ACT AS AGENTS PROVOCATEURS AND WOULD BE USED TO COVER SECTARIAN ASSASSINATIONS. UDA ONE PROTESTANT GROUP EXPRESSING RESERVATION THAT "ABUSES OF EMERGENCY PROVISIONS AMENDMENT ACT AND PREVENTION OF TERRORISM ACT .... WILL INCREASE WITH THE ACTIVITIES OF THE SAS."

CONGEN SEES DISPATCH OF SAS TO COUNTY ARMAGH WITH ROLE OF SURVEILLANCE AND PATROL CRUCIAL PSYCHOLOGICAL FACTOR IN AVERTING ESCALATION OF SECTARIAN REPRISALS IN REGION. ARMY ALERT HOWEVER TO POSSIBILITY VARIOUS TERRORIST GROUPS WILL NOW SEEK SOFTER TARGETS ELSEWHERE. DEATH OF TEEN-AGE PROTESTANT EXECUTED NIGHT JAN 7-8 BELFAST BRINGS 1976 ULSTER DEATH TOLL TO TWENTY.

5. IN CONTRAST OT BELLICOSE STATEMENTS FUNERAL SERVICES FOR
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FIFTEEN VICTIMS IN COUNTY ARMAGH MARKED BY EXPRESSIONS FORGIVENESS AND CONCILIATION. WORKERS IN LURGAN UNDERTAKING SILENT PROCESSION THIS MORNING AS MASS PROTEST AGAINST TERRORISM.

SPICER

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